

Application No.: 09/581,021

Docket No.: 21776-00050-US

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listing of the claims in this application.

**Listing of the Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for buying and selling goods connected to plural seller's terminal devices and plural buyer's terminal devices through a computer network, and making a bargain for goods based on selling information and buying information ~~for goods which lose their market values after a period of time, which are~~ output from said plural seller's terminal devices and said plural buyer's terminal devices for goods which decrease in value over time, comprising:

first dealing processing means for executing a sale by pre-engagement based on said buying information including desired buying date information for the goods output from said buyer's terminal devices and/or based on selling information for the goods including expected selling date information output from said seller's terminal devices; and

second dealing processing means for determining a processing order for selling information based on selling conditions of the goods among the selling information for unsold goods or newly entered selling information on said seller's terminal devices, and collating the selling information for the goods and said buying information for the goods received from said buyer's terminals in the determined order, so that each subsequent sale results when the selling conditions agree with buying conditions for the goods sequentially concluding a plurality of sales for goods which remain unsold, each of said concluded sales being formed from selling information pertaining to said unsold goods, or newly entered selling information on said seller's terminal devices, and said buying information, said second dealing processing means arranging selling information based on selling conditions for said unsold goods and collating said buyer's information and selling information so that each subsequent sale results when selling conditions for said goods agree with buying information received from said buyer's terminals.

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Claims 2-46 cancelled.

47. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:  
a copying processing means for processing the selling information on unsold goods  
among the selling information output from said seller's terminal devices for goods to be sold  
through said second dealing processing means after executing processing of a sale by said first  
dealing processing means.

48. (Previously presented) The good dealing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said second dealing processing means determines a processing order of the selling information  
based on conditions of a selling information processing order to determine the processing order  
for said plural selling information, and determines a processing order of the buying information  
based on conditions of a buying information processing order to determine a processing order for  
said plural buying information corresponding to each selling information, and executes  
sequentially said subsequent sales according to said ordered information.

49. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second  
dealing processing means include a C1 dealing processing function based on buying information  
with relatively easy conditions, and a C2 dealing processing function based on buying  
information with more rigorous conditions than the C1 dealing processing; and  
wherein the C1 dealing processing is executed after buying conditions are relaxed for the  
buying information unsold with said C2 dealing processing.

50. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:  
third dealing processing means for executing a sale of unsold goods which result from  
either processing of said first dealing processing means or said second dealing processing means,  
wherein said third dealing processing means classified and displays the unsold goods as  
goods to be excluded from sale and as those goods to be sold.

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51. (Currently amended) An apparatus for buying and selling goods connected to plural seller's terminal devices and plural buyer's terminal devices through a computer network, and making a sale of goods based on selling information and buying information for goods which have a market value which decreases after a period of time, which information are output from said plural seller's terminal devices and said plural buyer's terminal devices, comprising:

~~dealing processing means for executing processing of a first sale by pre-engagement based on said buying information including requested buying date information output from said buyer's terminal devices and/or based on selling information including expected selling date information output from said seller's terminal devices;~~

first cluster formation means for forming clusters of buying information for the goods having of the same buying conditions in plural pieces of said buying information;

second cluster formation means for forming clusters of selling information which meet buying conditions corresponding to the respective clusters of said buying information in plural pieces of selling information; and

dealing contract making means for making a sale by collating selling and buying information for the goods ~~linking selling information with buying information~~ between the clusters formed by said first cluster formation means and the corresponding clusters formed by said second cluster formation means based on a predetermined processing order for the clusters of said buying information or a predetermined processing order for the clusters of said selling information.

52. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 51, wherein conditions for determining clusters by said first cluster formation means and said second cluster formation means are divided into plural levels; and

wherein said dealing contract making means executes a bargain between the buying information cluster formed by said first cluster formation means and the selling information cluster formed by said second cluster formation means having the same level as the level of the buying information cluster.

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53. (Currently amended) An apparatus connected to plural seller's terminal devices and plural buyer's terminal devices through a computer network, and making a sale of goods based on selling information and buying information ~~for goods which lose their market values after passage of a period of time~~, which are output from said plural seller's terminal devices and said plural buyer's terminal devices for goods which decrease in value over time, comprising:

~~dealing processing means for executing processing of a first sale by pre-engagement based on buying information including requested buying date information output from said buyer's terminal devices and/or based on selling information including expected selling date information output from said seller's terminal devices;~~

buying information readout means for determining a processing order for said plural pieces of buying information based on predetermined conditions, and reading out respective buying information in the determined order;

cluster formation means for forming clusters of selling information for the goods which have having the same conditions as the buying conditions contained in the readout buying information; and

dealing contract making means for making a sale by linking respective selling information contained in the clusters of the selling information for the goods formed by said cluster formation means with said readout buying information.

54. (Currently amended) An apparatus connected to plural seller's terminal devices and plural buyer's terminal devices through a computer network, and making a sale for goods based on selling information and buying information for goods which lose their market values after passage of time, which information are output from said plural seller's terminal devices and said plural buyer's terminal devices, comprising:

~~dealing processing means for executing a sale by pre-engagement based on buying information including requested buying date information output from said buyer's terminal devices and/or based on selling information including expected selling date information output from said seller's terminal devices;~~

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selling information readout means for determining a processing order for said plural pieces of selling information based on predetermined conditions, and reading out respective selling information in the determined order;

cluster formation means for forming clusters of the buying information for the same goods having the same conditions as the selling conditions contained in the readout selling information; and

dealing contract making means for making a bargain by linking respective buying information contained in the clusters of the buying information for the same goods formed by said cluster formation means with said selling information.

55. (Currently amended) An apparatus making a sale for goods, which change their distribution cost under the influence of the quantity and date of a shipment, said apparatus connected to plural seller's terminal devices and plural buyer's terminal devices through a computer network, and making a bargain for goods based on selling information and buying information ~~for the goods which lose their market value after passage of a period of time, which~~ are output from said plural seller's terminal devices and said plural buyer's terminal devices for goods which decrease in value over time, comprising:

dealing processing means for executing processing of a sale based on said buying information including requested buying date information and arrival place information output from said buyer's terminal devices and/or based on selling information including expected selling date information and shipping place information output from said seller's terminal devices; and

a distribution cost table defining each distribution cost for every shipping place and arrival place,

wherein information including distribution costs defined in said distribution cost table based on said shipping place information and arrival place information is transmitted to said buyer's terminal device for every piece of selling information output from said seller's terminal devices, when a purchase request is issued from said buyer's side terminal devices to said selling information.

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56. (Currently amended) A goods buying and selling system connected to plural seller's terminal devices, plural buyer's terminal devices, and at least a market management device through a computer network, and making a bargain for goods with said market management device based on selling information and buying information ~~for selling goods which lose their market values after passage of time, which are~~ output from said plural seller's terminal devices and said plural buyer's terminal devices for goods which decrease in value over time,

said market management device, comprising:

first dealing processing means for executing a sale based on buying information output from said buyer's terminal devices relating to goods for sale;

second dealing processing means for executing a sale ~~by~~ based on said selling information output from said seller's terminal devices for the goods for sale; and

third dealing processing means for processing a sale in which a bargain is concluded with every agreement between said buying information and said selling information for the goods after collating selling information on unsold goods among the selling information output from said seller's terminal devices and buying information newly output from said buyer's terminal devices, following executing processing of a sale by said first dealing processing means and second dealing processing means.

57. (Previously presented) The goods buying and selling system according to claim 56, wherein said market management device third dealing processing means classifies the unsold goods as goods to be excluded and as goods to be sold.

58. (Previously presented) The goods buying and selling system according to claim 57, wherein said market management device further comprises pre-confirmation dealing processing means for executing a pre-confirmation of sale based on forecast information before confirmation of the amount of goods to be received,

wherein said seller's terminal devices

transmit forecast selling information to said pre-confirmation deal processing means before confirmation of the amount of the goods to be received,

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transmit selling information to said first dealing processing means and/or said second dealing processing means after confirmation of the amount of the goods to be received, and transmit selling information for the goods to be sold to said third dealing processing means when unsold goods result from at least any processing among said pre-confirmation dealing processing means, the first dealing processing means, and the second dealing processing means.

59. (Currently amended) A method for concluding a plurality of deals using information obtained from ~~using a goods dealing apparatus~~ plural seller's terminal devices and plural buyer's terminal devices through a computer network using a goods dealing apparatus, and making a bargain ~~for goods which lose their market value over time~~ based on selling information and buying information for the goods which decrease in value over time comprising:

a first dealing processing step for executing a first sale between buyer and seller by pre-engagement based on buying information including a desired buying date, and/or on selling information having a selling date; and

a second dealing processing step for concluding a plurality of subsequent sales of unsold goods following said first sale; said second dealing processing step arranging said selling information and any new selling information received from said sellers terminal devices in an order and collating said selling information and said buying information, said second dealing processing step sequentially concluding a plurality of sales each time said selling information and buying information agree.

60. (Previously presented) The goods dealing method according to claim 59, further comprising:

a copying processing step for processing the selling information for unsold goods among the selling information output from said seller's terminal devices for sale through said second dealing processing step after executing a sale through said first dealing processing step.

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62. (Previously presented) The goods dealing method according to claim 59, wherein said second dealing processing step includes a C1 dealing processing based on buying information with relatively easy conditions, and a C2 dealing processing based on buying information with more rigorous conditions than the C1 dealing processing; and

wherein the C1 dealing processing is executed after the C2 processing where conditions are relaxed for the buying information remaining after said C2 dealing processing.

63. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 59, further comprising: third dealing processing step for executing dealing in unsold goods after either processing of said first dealing processing step or said second dealing processing step;

wherein said third dealing processing step classifies and displays the unsold goods as goods to be excluded from sale and as goods to be sold.

64. (Currently amended) A method for buying and selling goods using a goods dealing apparatus connected to plural seller's terminal devices and plural buyer's terminal devices through a computer network, and making a bargain for goods which decrease in value over time based on selling information and buying information ~~for the goods which lose their market value after a period of time, which are~~ output from said plural seller's terminal devices and said plural buyer's terminal devices comprising:

a dealing processing step for executing processing of a sale based on said buying information including requested buying date information output from said buyer's terminal devices and/or based on selling information including expected selling date information output from said seller's terminal devices;

a first cluster formation step for forming clusters of buying information under the same buying conditions included in plural pieces of said buying information;

a second cluster formation step for forming clusters of selling information, which meet buying conditions corresponding to the respective clusters of said buying information, contained in plural pieces of selling information; and



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a contract making step for making a bargain by linking selling information with buying information between the clusters formed by said first cluster formation step and the corresponding clusters formed by said second cluster formation step based on a predetermined processing order for the clusters of said buying information or a predetermined processing order for the clusters of said selling information.

65. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 64, wherein conditions for determining clusters by said first cluster information step and said second cluster formation step are divided into plural levels; and

wherein said contract making step executes a bargain between the buying information cluster formed by said first cluster formation step and the selling information cluster formed by said second cluster formation step having the same level as the level of the buying information cluster.

66. (Currently amended) A method for buying and selling goods using a goods dealing apparatus connected to plural seller's terminal devices and plural buyer's terminal devices through a computer network, and making a bargain for goods which decrease in value over time based on selling information and buying information ~~for goods which lose market value after passage of time~~, which are output from said plural seller's terminal devices and said plural buyer's terminal devices, comprising:

a dealing processing step for executing a sale by pre-engagement based on buying information including requested buying date information output from said buyer's terminal devices and/or based on selling information including expected selling date information output from said seller's terminal devices;

a buying information readout step for determining a processing order for said plural pieces of buying information based on predetermined conditions, and reading out respective buying information in the determined order;

a cluster information step for forming clusters of selling information having the same conditions as the buying conditions contained in the readout buying information; and

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a contract making step for making a bargain by linking respective selling information contained in the clusters of the selling information formed by said cluster formation step with said buying information.

67. (Currently amended) A goods dealing method using a goods selling apparatus connected to plural seller's terminal devices and plural buyer's terminal devices through a computer network, and making a bargain for goods which decrease in value over time based on selling information and buying information ~~for the goods which lose their market values after passage of time, which are~~ output from said plural seller's terminal devices and said plural buyer's terminal devices, comprising:

a dealing processing step for executing processing of a sale by pre-engagement based on buying information including requested buying date information output from said buyer's terminal devices and/or based on selling information including expected selling date information output from said seller's terminal devices;

a selling information readout step for determining a processing order for said plural pieces of selling information based on predetermined conditions, and reading out respective selling information in the determined order;

a cluster formation step for forming clusters of the buying information having the same conditions as the selling conditions contained in the readout selling information; and

a contract making step for making a bargain by linking respective buying information contained in the clusters of the buying information formed by said cluster formation step with said selling information.

68. (Currently amended) A goods dealing step process using a goods selling apparatus connected to plural seller's terminal devices and plural buyer's terminal devices through a computer network, and making a bargain for goods which decrease in value over time based on selling information and buying information ~~for selling the goods which lose or reduce their market values after passage of a period of time, which are~~ output from said plural seller's terminal devices and said plural buyer's terminal devices, comprising:

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a dealing processing step for executing a sale based on said buying information including requested buying date information and arrival place information output from said buyer's terminal devices and/or based on selling information including expected selling date information and shipping place information output from said seller's terminal devices; and

a transmitting step for transmitting information including distribution costs referring to a distribution cost table defining each distribution cost for every shipping place and arrival place based on said shipping place information and arrival place information in response to a demand issued from said buyer's terminal devices.

69. (Currently amended) A storage medium to store a computer program for apparatus to buy and sell goods which decrease in value over time based on information received from plural seller's terminal devices and plural buyer's terminal devices through a computer network, and making a bargain for the goods based on selling information and buying information for the goods ~~which lose their market values after passage of time~~ comprising:

a first dealing processing step for executing a first deal by pre-engagement based on said buying information, including requested buying date information output from said buyer's terminal devices for the goods and/or based on selling information including an expected selling date information output from said seller's terminal devices for the goods; and

a second dealing processing step for executing subsequent deals for unsold goods following said first deal, said second processing step ordering selling information based on selling conditions for said unsold goods from said selling information and any updated selling information received from said sellers terminal devices and collating said selling information and buying information according to said order, said second processing step concluding a sale of goods each time said selling information agrees with buyer information received from said buyers terminal devices.

70. (Currently amended) A storage medium to store a computer program for a goods dealing apparatus connected to plural seller's terminal devices and plural buyer's terminal devices through a computer network, and making a bargain for goods which decrease in value over time based on selling information and buying information ~~for goods which lose or reduce~~

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~~their market value after passage of time, which are~~ output from said plural seller's terminal devices and said plural buyer's terminal devices, comprising:

a dealing processing step for executing processing of a first sale based on said buying information including requested buying date information output from said buyer's terminal devices and/or based on selling information including expected selling date information output from said seller's terminal devices;

a first cluster formation step for forming clusters of buying information under the same buying conditions included in the respective buying information, as to said plural pieces of said buying information;

a second cluster formation step for forming clusters of selling information which meet buying conditions corresponding to the respective clusters of said buying information, as to plural pieces of selling information; and

a computer readable storage medium to record a computer program for letting said goods dealing apparatus execute a contract making step for concluding a bargain by linking selling information with buying information between the clusters formed by said first cluster formation step and the corresponding clusters formed by said second cluster formation step based on a predetermined processing order for the clusters of said buying information or a predetermined processing order for the clusters of said selling information.